Fly Ash Released by Thermal Power Stations

(4) Raising the height of chimneys in power stations; and

*462. SHRI UTTAMRAO DEORAO PATIL: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fly ash released by thermal power stations is causing immense harm to human health besides causing environmental pollution,

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether studies have been undertaken in this regard,

(d) if so, the results thereof, and

(e) the concrete steps taken or proposed to be taken to tackle this menance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b). Fly ash generated from thermal power stations, if not disposed off in appropriate manner ', may cause environmental pollution and be hazardous to health.

(c) and (d). A socio-economic survey conducted in the Singrauli area during 1988-91 in regard to public health has not specifically found any health problems being caused due to fly ash pollution.

(e) Government has taken the following steps to mitigate the problems arising from fly ash accumulation near thermal power stations:

(1) Issue of certain guidelines for promotion of fly ash based products like bricks, cement, etc.;

(2) Establishment of pit head coal beneficiation plants for power grade coals;

(3) Augmentation of pollution control devices like mechanical and electrostatic precipitators as a part of renovation and modernisation programmes;

(5) Increasing the exit velocity of gases.

Pilot Study Stations

*463. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to have pilot study stations linked by radio and screen;

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) whether the All India Radio has developed any paging system to facilitate communications to and from remote places in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) to (d). The Research Department of All India Radio has developed a dual sub carrier system named radiotext/SCA (Subsidiary Channel Authorisation) for providing additional auxiliary services in the broadcast band without disturbing the normal programme. All India Radio proposes to establish a pilot study centre in one of the operational FM stations. The system would provide transmission of text in all India languages and one speech quality second programme. A special decoder with monitor